Uniform Policy for Food Processing

342. SHRI N. BALAGANGA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is proposing any uniform food processing policy for the growth of the sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) The need for having an appropriate food processing policy at the national and state levels was highlighted during the 1st Conference of the State Ministers of Food Processing Industries held on 6-10-2009. So far, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have formulated such food processing policies.

Subsidy for FPI

343. SHRI N. BALAGANGA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is having any proposal to increase the subsidy for food processing industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry only releases the funds in the shape of grants-in-aid to the agencies/entrepreneurs on the basis of applications received, depending upon the availability of funds within the budget provision on year to year basis. There is no proposal to modify existing norms of the extent of grants-in-aid.

Conference of Food Processing Industries Ministers

344. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI N. K SINGH :
Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether conference of State Ministersu of Food Processing Industries was organized at New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held in the conference;

(c) whether there is a need to formulate a National Food Processing Policy to spell out the vision for rapid growth; and

(d) if so, by when a National Food Processing Policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The 1st Conference of State Food Processing Ministers was organized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries on 06.10.2009 at New Delhi. A number of issues relating to the development of the sector were discussed. Among the issues that were discussed include development of food processing infrastructure, formulation of food processing policies, capacity building, financing for the sector, food safety & quality and institutional strengthening.

(c) and (d) The need for having an appropriate food processing policy at the national and state levels was highlighted during the above Conference. No formal timeframe has been decided on the formulation of a national food processing policy.

CVC probe into financial irregularities in PRASAR BHARATI

†345.SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi High Court has asked for Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) probe into financial irregularities in Prasar Bharati;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not conducting audit of accounts of Prasar Bharati for the last few years;

(d) whether it is a fact that in order to keep the financial irregularities under cover, audit of Prasar Bharati has not been conducted; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHARY MOHAN JATUA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. In a Writ Petition No. 8780/2009 filed by Centre for Public Interest Litigation *Vs* UOI & ors., the Honuble High Court of Delhi *vide* its interim order dated 27.07.2009 has *interalia* directed to refer the allegations regarding financial and administrative irregularities etc. to the Central Vigilance Commission for appropriate investigation and report. The Honuble High Court in its final order dated 13.11.2009 has reiterated the interim directions on this issue.

(c) The C & AG audits the accounts of the Prasar Bharati regularly. Last such audit was conducted for the year 2007-08 and the certified audited accounts were laid down on the Table of both the Houses of the Parliament.

(d) and (e) In view of above, No Sir. Further on 25/05/09, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has ordered a Special Audit under the provisions of GFR on General Accounting issues and specific financial issues pertaining to Prasar Bharati. The special audit is being conducted by the Chief Controller of Accounts, M/o Information and Broadcasting *w.e.f.* 05/06/2009.

† Orignial notice of the question was received in Hindi.